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Sent: Monday, February 21, 2022 7:12 PM
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Subject: Strategic Update - 2022 02 21

STRATEGIC UPDATES FOR DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL

The information in this report is current to 2022-02-21 at 1900 hours.

Opposition to Public Health Measures

No incidents to report.

ASSESSMENT

Currently, there is no specific, identified threat and monitoring remains attuned to where ideologically motivated extremism may manifest among participants in or supporters of opposition activities.

Freedom Convoy 2022

On February 14, 2022, the federal government invoked the *Emergencies Act* to provide additional powers to handle ongoing blockades and protests against pandemic restrictions. PM Trudeau said the measures will be geographically targeted and time limited. A cabinet declaration of emergency is in effect immediately and must be presented to Parliament within seven days. A vote on a motion to support the act's invocation is scheduled to occur tonight at 2000 hours; the Senate will then proceed to debate and vote on it as well. If either the Commons or the Senate votes against the motion, the emergency declaration will be revoked.

Ottawa Demonstrations

Police Reporting

Police continue to maintain security around the Ottawa downtown core. Police have reduced the size of the secured area; it now includes Somerset Street West to Parliament Hill and Bronson Avenue to the Rideau Canal.

As of the morning of February 21st, 2022 police have made 196 arrests in connection with the Ottawa convoy protests. A total of 115 vehicles have been towed to date.

A demonstration is ongoing at an agricultural property in Arnprior, where a farm field has been made available for convoy participants to stay.

OPP reporting indicates that the vehicles that were previously congregating at a service station in Vankleek Hill have moved to the nearby private property in the area of OPP Hawkesbury Detachment. Vehicles at the location are believed to be convoy protestors leaving Ottawa. OPP PLT engaged the owner of the private property, who has agreed to let the remaining convoy members

stay on site until Tuesday, February 22, 2022, with the owner agreeing to contact OPP if there were any issues.

Open Source Reporting

Social media messaging from some leadership figures within the convoy are advising supporters to leave Ottawa. Other leadership figures have called on supporters to re-group and plan for next steps.

Recent media reporting includes an image of an Ontario Member of Provincial Parliament posing with a group of people in front of a Diagonal flag in a wooded landscape. The reporting indicates the MPP may have gone camping with Diagonal supporters. The reporting does not identify where or when the image was taken. Diagonal is considered to be a white-supremacist accelerationist movement that recognizes a fictional country that runs diagonally across North America from Alaska to Florida. Diagonal flags and patches were recently recovered as a part of the search and seizure of firearms and ammunition at the Coutts, Alberta blockade. Media reporting also notes that the Nova Scotia-based founder of Diagonal had weapons seized from his residence by the RCMP last month after a video was posted to social media where the founder was pointing a gun at a man's head.

Media reporting and social media messaging notes the same MPP has been using social media to encourage people to deliberately flood emergency service telephone lines in Ottawa.

Toronto Demonstrations

Police Reporting

There are currently no protestors in the area of the Legislature. Legislative Protective Service reported approximately 50 protestors in the area as part of a Family Day march in support of the "Freedom convoy 2022. No issues were reported.

Toronto Police Service (TPS) reports that all roads have been re-opened with exception of Hospital Row and Queen's Park (University Ave. from Bloor St. to Queen St.).

The Legislature is back in session tomorrow; members and staff are being advised to enter the area via the Bay Street and Wellesley Street W. check point. A member of the Legislative Protective Service will be positioned there to assist TPS.

Open Source Reporting

Social media messaging indicates that 'Freedom Toronto 2022' intends to continue their march on a daily basis.

Ports of Entry - Windsor

Police Reporting

Ambassador Bridge is fully open. Canada-bound and US-bound traffic is flowing freely.

Police intelligence has decreased in terms of the Ambassador Bridge being a potential target for protest activity.

The OPP reported that blockade supporters in Windsor are fundraising to support Windsor residents arrested in the protest at the Ambassador Bridge last weekend.

Ports of Entry – Niagara / Peace Bridge

Police Reporting

Traffic is flowing; no concerns or issues to report.

Niagara Regional Police Service relayed information last night regarding 50 transport trucks parked along the Hwy 20 weight scales in Smithville who indicated they were just out for a drive. No incidents were reported.

Ports of Entry – Sarnia

Police Reporting

OPP reporting indicates that traffic is moving normally at the Blue Water Bridge.

Ports of Entry – Nipigon

Police Reporting

OPP reporting has identified a potential blockade at the Nipigon River Bridge scheduled for February 26, 2022.

Other Potential Activity

Police Reporting

Slow roll, convoy and other related protest events were reported in many communities across the province today, including North Bay, Wellington-Perth to Mapleton, Kingston, Whitby, Springwater Township and Walkerton. No significant incidents have been reported.

Open Source Reporting

Open source research identified social media messaging from a prominent anti-vaccine conspiracy theorist calling for nation-wide “Freedom Chain” across the Trans-Canada Highway on March, 5, 2022. The Toronto-based influencer and organizer has figured prominently as an opponent of public health measures intended to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19.

Social media information indicates that farmers from the Thunder Bay area intend to block bridges and border crossings with 1000 tractors. The message also claims that they are going to a border crossing with 5,000 vehicles, including commercial motor vehicles. The border point is not named; it is possible that Pigeon River is the destination.

Other local convoy actions are anticipated in other jurisdictions across the province, please see the updated event schedule below for additional information.

ASSESSMENT

All available information indicates that “freedom convoy” protests will continue for the foreseeable future.

Some participants in the Ottawa blockade have clearly stated their intent to continue engaging in ongoing protests. For some, the goal extends beyond COVID-19 vaccine requirements to compelling the current federal government to step down. Others appear to espouse a broader anti-government and anti-authority ideology. The organizers and protestors of the Ottawa blockade have demonstrated their capability to conduct a highly disruptive protest and to inspire other similar protests elsewhere.

Ongoing local protests, convoys, civil disobedience, and, possibly, acts of mischief may be expected against government facilities and elected officials at all levels; law enforcement; and any individual or entity, such as towing companies, that have opposed the blockade or assisted law enforcement to end it.

It is highly likely that critical infrastructure, such as major highways and roadways, border crossings, bridges, airports and railways may be targets for disruption. Simultaneous or sequential protests may be organized with little or no warning in different locations to keep law enforcement reactive, and to strain law enforcement resources.

At this juncture, there is no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest and Operation BearHug 2.0 activity. However, the possibility that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a physical threat with little or no warning cannot be excluded.

EVENT SCHEDULE

February 21-25

Freedom Week

Organizer associated to the Ottawa truck convoy are encouraging individuals to participate in a week of civil disobedience

Friday, February 25, 2022

Hawkesbury

Support Protest

Saturday February 26, 2022

Nipigon Bridge

Protest was scheduled for 13 February has been rescheduled for February 26, 2022

Windsor

Bake Sale for the Freedom Fighter Defence

Peterborough

Slow Roll meeting at Metro Parking Lot 1154 Chemong Rd.

U/K Date

Thunder Bay

Canada Unity – Operation Bearhug Canada

Strategic Border crossing disruptions. Plans unconfirmed.

Detroit, Michigan

Potential Protest at Canadian Embassy in Detroit, Michigan

Washington, D.C., USA

Several trucker convoys are expected to converge on Washington DC in early to mid-March. Disruptions to traffic expected on major roadways beginning 23 Feb 2022. Major disruptions anticipated in the Washington DC area from 05-07 March 22. May impact the Canadian Diplomatic Mission located at 501 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington DC.

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